

United States Sentencing Commission

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Created under the provisions of the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984, the United States Sentencing Commission is an independent agency in the judicial branch and is responsible for establishing guidelines for federal judges to use when sentencing organizations and individuals convicted of federal crimes. The Commission's initial guidelines, as well as the related provisions of the Crime Control Act, went into effect on November 1, 1987. The Commission is composed of seven members appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. The United States Attorney General and the chair of the United States Parole Commission also serve on the Sentencing Commission as non-voting, ex-officio members.

Staff

- Chair **Ricardo H. Hinojosa** (202) 502-4500
Affiliation: District Judge, Chambers of District Judge Ricardo H. Hinojosa, United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas
Education: Texas 1972 BA; Harvard 1975 JD
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Vice Chair **Ruben Castillo** (202) 502-4500
Education: Loyola (Chicago) 1976 BA; Northwestern 1979 JD
- Vice Chair **William K. Sessions III** (202) 502-4500
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Term Expires: October 31, 2009
Education: Trinity U 1988 BA; Yale 1992 JD
- Commissioner **Michael E. Horowitz** (202) 502-4500
Education: Brandeis 1984 BA; Harvard 1987 JD
- Commissioner **Beryl A. Howell** (202) 502-4500
Term Expires: October 31, 2011
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State Courts